

**JUNE 7, 2021**

**TO: SOUTHERN PLAINS COACHES & LEADERS**  
**FR: RUSTY DAVIDSON**  
**RE: NATIONAL COACHES COUNCIL**

Coaches & Leaders,

Wow ! We just had a weekend worth waiting for ! The organization of our Southern Plains Championship was great, grown-ups, in every role, were solid, and the wrestling was beautiful.

I've been told that my preparatory comments, getting ready for one-person mechanics, got a few folks riled up. Trust me, my intention was purely to not have any of our Coaches or families blind-sided.

Much credit is due our Southern Plains Referees. We are lucky to have solid leadership, both young and old. Assigned leaders, Grant Williams, Rick Schwab, Jason Babi, Rod Cozetto nailed it. Our teachers taught. Our brilliant crop of developing officials lived up to Southern Plains Tradition.

Our Coaches, Old Guard and New Blood, all stepped up. Athletes of all age groups were well prepared. Our parents made it clear, they understand the increased stress of regional competition.

Your State Leaders met Sunday and selected our Southern Plains Developmental Coaches of the Year. Congratulations to Scott Cutbirth, Missouri, Hardell Moore, Oklahoma, and Mike Tuck, Missouri. They are our nominees for National Coach of the Year, in Women's, Freestyle, and Greco, respectively.

Our Team of "Customer Service Representatives" depends, heavily, on our Pairings Experts. The Southern Plains is fortunate to have the best in the business. Gratitude to all our table help, to our Trainers, to all the volunteers who moved and set up mats. Of course, Thank You, Kat, for keeping us informed and entertained !

I've been proud to represent the Southern Plains for a long... long time, but never more proud than 2021. After all we've tolerated over the last 15 months, we came together and celebrated WHAT'S RIGHT with kids !

Once more, I believe we need to credit Team Kansas for their organization and efforts. For the record, we will return to Kansas (hopefully Mulvane), for the 2022 Southern Plains Championship.

That decision was easily reached, by Southern Plains Leaders, as an 'Extension' of host privilege, lost to the insanity of 2020. This summer is the right time to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of your state bidding for the next three-year host privilege (2023 thru 2025).

Right now is the time to have constructive planning conversations, with all your clubs and leaders, regarding Summer '21's remaining events. USAW has published a well-thought, exhaustive set of recommendations and protocols for our Dual and Individual National Championships and Training Camps.

I encourage all Coaches, Referees, and Leaders to review our SafeSport MAAPP, before you travel or train. Go to [themat.com](https://themat.com) click on Menu, then SafeSport. Figure out what MAAPP stands for, then give it a thorough read.

We need to let knowledge be power, as we communicate with families and prepare athletes for the rigors of travel. While we all celebrate getting a little closer to normal, every day, we still have to accept our individual responsibility to the greater good and protection of the sport.

Again, Thanks for a Great Weekend. Thanks for your individual efforts, over the last year, to keep all of us in the lifeboat, through some rough waters.

For what it's worth, I'll miss Fargo, along with all the duals. Eva and I are... finally... able to visit our new, part-time home, in Slovenia. We'll be back in August. Our summer goal is to get set up for LOTS of company. Please consider that your invitation.

I will be paying attention, and I will be sending you notes, as needed. Anything I can do to give SP athletes an ethical edge, is a responsibility and privilege I take seriously.

Have a great summer !

Rusty